

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OES-03 PC-01 USIA-06 IO-10 INR-07

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----- 085172

P R 261230Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1316

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY COTONU

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AFDROUGHT

AIDAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJ: NIGER FOOD REQUIREMENTS 1975

REF: A. NIAMEY 7\$ B. STATE 172801 C. NIAMEY 2843 D. NIAMEY 2922  
E. NIAMEY 2944

1. PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE CONVOKED ME EARLY MORNING  
JULY 26 TO INQUIRE ABOUT STATUS OF HIS REQUEST  
FOR DIVERSION OF US SORGHUM IN DAHOMEY FROM GAO TO  
NIAMEY. HE SAID HE WAS LEAVING THIS AFTERNOON  
JULY 26 FOR OAU MEETING IN KAMPALA AND HAD HOPED TO  
HAVE REASSURANCE FROM USG THAT GRAIN WAS ON ITS  
WAY BEFORE HE LEFT COUNTRY AS SITUATION WAS WORRISOME  
AND WORSENING.

2. AS DEPARTMENT AND AID WILL RECALL GON FIRST  
ALERTED INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY JULY 2 TO NIGER'S  
CHANGING AND GROWING FOOD REQUIREMENTS. KOUNTCHE  
FOLLOWED THIS UP JULY 19 WITH SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR  
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SOME OF US SORGHUM IN DAHOMEY AND REPEATED IT PERSONALLY

AT MEETING MORNINGJULY 21.

3. AT TODAY'S DISCUSSION, KOUNTCHE REPEATED SITUATION CRITICAL IN NORTHERN AREAS OF NIAMEY DEPARTMENT (TILLABERY, OUALLUM AND FILINGUE AREAS). GOVERNMENT STOCKS ARE EXHAUSTED IN EFFORT PROVIDE A) SEED FOR REPEATED SOWINGS (UP TO THREE OR FOUR TIMES) AND TO COMPENSATE FOR INSECT DAMAGE; B) FREE FOOD FOR TRADE IN NEED AND TO KEEP WORRIED FARMERS ON LAND. GON DOING EVERYTHING IT CAN WITHIN LIMIT OF ITS RESOURCES TO COPE WITH SITUATION INCLUDING MOVING GRAIN ALL WAY ACROSS COUNTRY FROM N'GUIGMPNAMERE SITUATION LESS ACUTE TO AREAS OF GREATER NEED NORTH OF NIAMEY. HOWEVER, EVEN WITH THESE EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES, NIGER STILL NEEDS HELP URGENTLY.

4. KOUNTCHE CONCLUDED HE WAS TURNING TO USG FOR HIS EMERGENCY RELIEF BECAUSE US LAST YEAR DEMONSTRATED ITS HUMANITARIAN INTEREST AND CONCERN IN NIGER AND SECONDLY BECAUSE TO HIS KNOWLEDGE US SORGHUM IN DAHOMEY WAS ONLY GRAIN IN GENERAL AREA WHICH COULD BE RESPONSIVE TO NIGER'S URGENT NEEDS.

5. I SAID I WOULD AGAIN PASS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON WITH REQUEST FOR QUICK REPLY.

6. COMMENT. COUNTRY TEAM SUPPORTS KOUNTCHE'S REQUEST. AS REPORTED NIAMEY 2944 AL RIDENT AND DONORS MET JULY 24 TO REVIEW GON FOOD SITUATION AND REQUEST. UNDP HAS ALREADY SUBMITTED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO OSRO WHICH INTER ALIA SUPPORTS GON NEED FOR AT LEAST 20,000 ADDITIONAL TONS THIS YEAR (NIAMEY 2944). RDO CURRENTLY PREPARING TO STUDY SITUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED AS SOON AS COMPLETED. WHATEVER OUR FINDINGS MAY BE THERE IS OBVIOUS SHORTFALL OF A) 16,000 TONS IN DONOR PLEDGES TO MEET 75,000 TON REQUIREMENT ENVISAGED BY MULTI-DONOR MISSION AND B) AT LEAST 5,000 MORE TONS RELEASED FROM OPVN STOCKS THIS SUMMER FOR RESEEDING WHICH NOT ANTICIPATED BY MULTI-DONOR MISSION. FRANCE AND FED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAY MAKE UP AT LEAST 12,000 TONS OF 16,000 TON DONATION BUT NONE CAN GET HERE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS EXCEPT BY AIRLIFT. THUS DURING PERIOD OF SCARCITY THERE IS AT LEAST 21,000 TONS WHICH THOUGHT AVAILABLE FOR CONSUMPTION WHICH IN FACT IS NOT AVAILABLE.

7. PENDING OUR MORE LONG RANGE ANALYSIS OF NEED,

WE CONCLUDE RIGHT NOW WE SHOULD RESPOND TO NIGER'S REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE DIVERSION OF US SORGHUM BECAUSE A) THERE IS NEED, B) AREA OF NEED HAPPENS BE ADJACENT NIAMEY DEPARTMENT -- ROAD NETWORK AND DELIVERY OF US SORGHUM THERE VIA KE STRAIN OFF GON RESOURCES BEING USED TO JUGGLE INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION OF GRAIN, C) AS REPORTED AT JULY 15 MEETING, FARMERS WORRIED AND GON BECOMING NERVOUS. IN CONTRAST LAST YEAR WHEN NEW REGIME WAS WORKING WITH MASSIVE DONOR ASSISTANCE, GON SUDDENLY FINDS ITSELF ALONE TRYING TO COPE WITH GROWING PROBLEM'S FINDING ITS RESOURCES INADEQUATE AND GETTING NO RESPONSE TO DATE TO ITS APPEAL FOR HELP EXCEPT FRENCH PLEDGE JULY 21 OF ADDITIONAL 5,000 TONS OF SORGHUM. MEASURE OF GON CONCERN IS FACT KOUNTCHE IN ONE WEEK HAS RAISED QUESTION WITH ME THREE TIMES AND PRESIDENT IS TYPE OF PERSON WHO DOES NOT ASK FOR HELP UNLESS HE REALLY NEEDS IT.

8. FOR THESE PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO REASSURE GON AS WELL AS OTHER REASONS CITED WE URGE QUICK RESPONSE TO KOUNTCHE REQUEST WITH DIVERSION OF 1500 TONS TO NIGER FROM EITHER ABIDJAN OR PARAKOU STOCKS. LATTER WOULD BE QUICKER.

9. WITH THIS FIRST STEP ACCOMPLISHED, WE CAN THEN EXAMINE CAREFULLY OVERALL GON FOOD REQUIREMENTS FOR BALANCE OF YEAR WHICH WE ANTICIPATE WILL CALL FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD IMPORTS. END COMMENT.

10 ACTION REQUESTED. AUTHORITY TO INFORM GON SOONEST THAT USG UNDERTAKING TO DIVERT 1500 TONS OF US SORGHUM FROM MALI TO NIGER. HECK

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## Message Attributes

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